

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Applicant proposes to amend the claims as indicated above to make the application clearly allowable for the reasons set forth below. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Office to enter the proposed amendments. No additional claims have been added without canceling an equal number of claims.

The Office rejected claims 1 and 6-31 over the prior art cited in the final Office Action. The Office, however, only objected to claims 2-5 as containing allowable subject matter and indicated that they would be allowable if amended to contain all the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claim.

As suggested by the Office, Applicant proposed to amend claims 2 and 4 in independent form and to include all the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. In addition, Applicant proposes to amend independent claims 14, 18, 20 and 22 to contain the limitations in allowable claims 2 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims should also be allowable for the same reason that claims 2 and 4 are allowable.

As well, Applicant has amended the remaining dependent claims to depend on these allowable independent claims. Applicant has also canceled claims 1, 6-13, 17, and 19, and has added a fewer number of new dependent claims 32-35.

Thus, the proposed amendments change all the pending claims to contain allowable subject matter and the new added claims also contain allowable subject matter. Applicant accordingly requests the Office to enter the proposed amendments.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments, and for the reasons of record, Applicants respectfully request the Office to enter the proposed Amendment, withdraw the pending grounds of rejection, and allow the pending claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, including a fee for an extension of time not accounted for above, please charge the fee to our deposit account 50-0843.

Respectfully Submitted,

By   
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Reg. No. 39,481

December 23, 2005